

TALKING PAPER
ON
ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Electrical mishaps from 2011 through 2015 cost the Air Force in both personnel loss and damage to property
 - Three off-duty fatalities
 - Non-fatal mishaps cost the Air Force as well
 - Property Damages cost \$42,552,615.00 to Air Force assets
 - On-duty mishaps cost 267 lost work days @ \$209,969.00 for injury costs
 - Off-duty mishaps created a loss of 95 work days @ \$37,425.22
- Electrical hazards can cause burns, shocks and electrocution (death) – these tips can prevent recurrence of these issues:
 - Assume that all overhead wires are energized at lethal voltages
 - Never assume that a wire is safe to touch even if it is down or appears to be insulated
 - Never touch a fallen overhead power line - Call the electric utility company to report fallen electrical lines
 - Stay at least 10 feet away from overhead wires during cleanup and other activities
 - If working at heights or handling long objects, survey the area before starting work for the presence of overhead wires
 - If an overhead wire falls across your vehicle while you are driving, stay inside the vehicle and continue to drive away from the line
 - Never operate electrical equipment while standing in water or damp areas
 - Never repair electrical cords or equipment unless qualified and authorized
 - Have a qualified electrician inspect electrical equipment that has gotten wet before energizing it

- When working in damp locations, inspect electric cords and equipment to ensure that they are in good condition and free of defects, and use a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)

- Always use caution when working near electricity

- Electrical failures or malfunctions may lead to fires – causing property damage/loss, injuries and death - use these tips to reduce the chance of an electrical failure leading to a fire:

- Replace or repair damaged or loose electrical cords

- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets

- In homes with small children, make sure your home has tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles

- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords

- Avoid overloading outlets - Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time

- If outlets or switches feel warm, frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuits, or flickering or dimming lights, call a qualified electrician

- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage

- Make sure your home has ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the kitchen bathroom(s), laundry, basement, and outdoor areas

- If you are uncertain of the electrical safety requirements, consult your supervisor, local occupational safety staff or the references below:

- AFI 91-203 - Chapter 8 – *Electrical Safety*

- National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 70, *National Electric Code*